

### **Remarks**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejection contained in the Office Action of April 14, 2005 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 7 as being anticipated by Davies, U.S. Patent 4,856,734. However, the Examiner went on to indicate that claims 2-6 and 8-12 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form and so as to include all of the limitations of there base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 2 has now been redrafted into independent form. Further, claim 7 has been canceled. As such, all of original claims 2-6 and 8-12 should now be in condition for allowance. Indication of such is respectfully requested.

The acceptance of the above subject matter should not be taken as acquiescence to the position espoused by the Examiner. Rather, the allowable subject matter has been accepted in order to obtain the early allowance of the application.

The Examiner's attention is further drawn to new claims 13-18. Claim 13 is the only new independent claim. This claim corresponds substantially to claim 2 as now amended, but removes the use of "means" language. However, it is respectfully submitted that the claim should clearly distinguish over Davies for the same reasons as are applicable with respect to claim 2. Claims 14-18 correspond to original dependent claims 3-7, but all depend from allowable claim 13.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Toshiharu FUJITA et al.

By:



Nils E. Pedersen

Registration No. 33,145

Attorney for Applicants

NEP/jmj  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
June 16, 2005